

## Message Text

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63

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NEA-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 USIA-15 TRSE-00

MBFR-03 SAJ-01 ACDA-19 OMB-01 RSR-01 /126 W

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R 141740Z AUG 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1166

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 3821

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12-31-79

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH SPECIALIZATION

1. AIR COMMODORE GESCHIERE, ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF, DUTCH AIR FORCE, CALLED ON B/G BOWMAN, AUGUST 13, TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SPECIALIZATION IN NATO AIR FORCES.

2. AIR COMMODORE GESCHIERE INDICATED THAT HE WAS PERSONALLY CONVINCED THAT THE DUTCH MOD DOES NOT INTEND TO USE THE SPECIALIZATION STUDY AS AN EXCUSE FOR CUTTING DEFENSE FORCES. HE SAID THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE WILL BE NO CUTS IN THE DEFENSE BUDGET BUT THESE WILL NOT BE THE RESULT OF THE SPECIALIZATION STUDY.

3. IN GESCHIERE'S OPINION, THE MOST LIKELY OUTCOME FOR THE NETHERLANDS WILL BE A NEW AIRCRAFT THAT WOULD BE ORIENTED TOWARDS THE CONVENTIONAL AIR-TO-GROUND ATTACK ROLE WITH LIMITED AIR-TO-AIR COMBAT CAPABILITY AND LIMITED NUCLEAR DELIVERY CAPABILITY. THE ONLY MISSION TO BE DROPPED WOULD BE ALL-WEATHER AIR DEFENSE.

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4. GESCHIERE FEELS THAT THE CURRENT SHAPE CRITERIA WOULD REQUIRE THE NETHERLANDS TO BUY BOTH THE F-15 AND THE MRCA AIRCRAFT, WHEREAS THE SORT OF RESULT THEY HOPE FOR FROM THE SPECIALIZATION STUDY WOULD LEAVE THE NORTHROP COBRA STILL IN THE RUNNING

BUT WITHOUT ANY ALL-WEATHER DEFENSE CAPABILITY. HE EXPECTS ANY  
REDUCTION IN COST DUE TO DROPPING THE ALL-WEATHER CAPABILITY TO  
BE APPLIED TO PURCHASING ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.

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